

AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag, said inflators having metal housing shells with wiring harnesses attached thereto for activation and combustible gas generating material therein, comprising:

~~a step of cutting and removing wire~~ said wiring harnesses connected for inflator activationtherefrom;

~~a step of performing grouping~~ said inflators according to main ~~those~~ metals constituting inflatorssaid housing shells; and

~~a step of charging the~~ respective groups of inflators which have been subjected to treatment in the preceding steps into ~~a thermally treating tower~~ thermal treating towers to ~~conduct thermal treatment at~~ subject said inflators to thermal treatment at a temperature at which said gas generating materials inside the inflators burn and the main ~~without melting those~~ metals constituting inflators do not melt said housing shells.

2. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1, wherein said inflators include plastic parts, further comprising ~~a step of removing~~ said plastic parts prior to the step of conducting ~~heating~~ thermal treatment of said inflators.

3. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1, wherein said inflators have various shapes, further comprising ~~a step of~~

~~performing grouping said inflators according to the to such shapes of the inflators~~ prior to the step of conducting thermal treatment of said inflators.

4. (original) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 3, wherein the shapes of the inflators are disk-shaped or cylinder-shaped.

5. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 4, wherein, when the shapes of the inflators are cylinder-shaped, the inflators comprise either pyrotechnic or hybrid types and are further grouped to either of a pyrotechnic inflator and a hybrid type inflator as said pyrotechnic and hybrid types, respectively.

6. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~the main those~~ metals constituting said inflators are aluminum, iron or stainless steel constituting ~~outer shell containers~~ said housing shells of the inflators.

7. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1, comprising, in the following order;

- (A) ~~step of cutting and removing wire harnesses connected for inflator actuation,~~
- (B) ~~step of removing a plastic part~~ removing plastic parts,
- (C) ~~step of performing grouping said inflators according to main those~~ metals constituting inflators ~~to receive the inflators in a receiving box as occasion demands~~ said housing shell,

(D) ~~step of performing further grouping said inflators~~ according to the shapes of the inflators ~~to receive the inflators in a receiving box as needed, and~~

(E) ~~step of charging respective groups of the inflators which have been subjected to treatment in the preceding steps into one or more thermal treating towers to subject said groups of inflators to a thermally treating tower to conduct thermal treatment at a temperature at a temperature which gas generating materials inside the inflators burn and the main without melting those metals constituting inflators do not melt~~said housing shells.

8. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 7, wherein, in the (C) and (D) steps, the inflators are grouped ~~using both of the main metal constituting an inflator and the~~ according to both the metal of the housing shell and shape thereof as selection references to receive inflators having identical metals and shapes in the same receiving box.

9. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1 or 7, wherein ~~the treatment in the step preceding to the thermal treatment step or reservation of the inflators before treatment is conducted in an indoor facility provided with a lightning rod~~ prior to thermal treatment said method is conducted in a lightning protected environment.

10. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1 or 7, wherein the ~~step of conducting thermal treatment is a step of conducting charging treatment of the inflators after~~ includes charging each group of inflators into a said thermal treating tower after the temperature inside the thermally a said thermal treating

tower is elevated up ~~to a~~ to said temperature at which the gas generating materials inside the inflators burn ~~and main~~ without melting those metals constituting ~~an inflator do not melt~~ said housing shells, and

after completing the inflator charging, ~~or after the last inflator charging when divisionally charging inflators plural times, the~~ maintaining said temperature is ~~maintained~~ for a time of 1 to 100 times a time required to ~~terminate~~ complete thermal treatment ~~of the of an~~ inflator.

11. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 10, wherein, after inflator charging, ~~or after the last inflator charging when divisionally charging inflators plural times, the~~ said temperature is maintained for a time of 3 to 30 times a time required to ~~terminate~~ complete thermal treatment ~~of the of an~~ inflator.

12. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1 or 7, wherein the inflators are treated using a thermal treatment equipment provided with a ~~thermally~~ thermal treating tower, an inflator charging apparatus ~~to the thermally~~ for the thermal treating tower, a heating apparatus inside the ~~thermally~~ thermal treating tower, and a cooling apparatus of a gas exhausted from the ~~thermally~~ thermal treating tower.

13. (currently amended) A method for recovering those metals constituting the housing shells of inflators after ~~the treatment conducted by the high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag~~ completing the high temperature treating method according to claim 1 or 7, ~~wherein~~ comprising:

~~the method comprising a step of~~ subsequently cooling the interior of the ~~thermally thermal~~ treating tower, ~~after the step of conducting thermal treatment is terminated, and~~

~~thereafter removing said inflators from said tower, and thereafter melting the inflators after the inflators are taken out.~~

14. (currently amended) A metal recovering method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 13, comprising a step of cutting apart the inflators into pieces prior to the step of melting the inflators.

15. (currently amended) A metal recovering method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the inflator-cutting step ~~is applied to an inflator~~ prevents inflators having sealed outer shell container with an apparently sealed structure or with a structure in which water is easily entered or stayed inside the inflator structures or those holding water from exploding during said melting step.